

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending October 30, 2005

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 6.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending October 30, 2005**. The lack of rain and dry weather has been beneficial to those harvesting crops and tilling land, but has prevented a majority of winter planting to occur. For those acres that are already planted with wheat and ryegrass, some replanting may be necessary when rain arrives. Cattle and dairy producers desperately need rain. Pasture conditions are very dry and many cattle have not been able to graze parched pastures. Producers have begun feeding hay early in the season. Soil moisture was rated 72 percent very short, 19 percent short, and 9 percent adequate. Soil moisture was rated 72 percent very short, 19 percent short, and 9 percent adequate.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2004	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Cotton	Harvested	96	89	84	81	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Harvested	100	99	100	98	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Harvested	99	97	99	91	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	95	90	82	92	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						16	28	31	20	5
Pasture						49	36	11	4	0

County Agent Comments

"Except for one or two growers from adjoining counties, we are through with the cotton harvest. We are as dry as or drier than we were in the heat of the summer. We badly need a rain to get winter grazing up and growing. Wheat planted right now does not have a chance of coming up!"

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

"The dry weather has been a blessing for crops but has been hard on area pastures. The early frost has halted grass growth, and a lack of moisture has hurt winter planted grasses."

— Tim Needham, Tippah

"Cotton and soybean harvest work has been completed. Most fall tillage work will be completed by this coming weekend. Now we need a good rain to settle the dust; it is getting deep!"

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

"Harvesting is over and fieldwork will continue until rainfall stops producers from getting back in the field."

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

"Conditions for harvesting crops have been excellent, but soil moisture levels have fallen extremely low. Livestock producers and growers of winter crops need rain to continue their work."

— Ernest Flint, Attala

"We are very dry. We need a rain for pastures and winter grazing. The fire hazard is pretty significant for our timber as well."

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“It continues to be very dry throughout our county.”

— Michael Howell, Covington

“Dry weather continues. The performance of summer pastures and livestock is pathetic. Things are shaping up for a very difficult winter for beef and dairy producers who normally are grazing ryegrass and/or small grain pastures at this time. Sadly, these pastures have not been planted to date because of drought and lingering financial woes of Hurricane Katrina. Hay supplies will be very tight this winter. Many dairy and beef producers are exploring strategies to sell their cattle if they can find something else to generate income.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Farmers need rain for forages; however, a lot of roofs would leak if it rained.”

— Walter E. Walker, Jackson

“Crops are harvested and most tillage work has been completed. We had great harvest weather and did not get any rain in October.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“We have gone some 33 days without any rain. This is as dry as I have seen it in a long time. I feel that when we get some rain there will be quite a bit of replanting to be done on our wheat and ryegrass fields. I guess we will cross that bridge when we come to it! The winter grazing plantings that I have looked at definitely don't look good at this point.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“We have gone two months with no rain. Pastures are in poor condition, and ryegrass planting has been delayed until we get rain. Commercial vegetable growers have been unable to plant greens due to drought.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“A lack of rainfall continues to be a problem in the area with pastures and cropland resembling pictures of the dust bowl of the depression era.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Drought conditions: very little grass is left, we are already beginning to feed hay and will have no more cuttings because of a lack of rain and frosty weather last week.”

— Judith Breland, Stone

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Weather Summary from October 24, 2005 to October 30, 2005 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Cleveland	66	33	49	60	-11	0.00	-0.80	0	0.05				
Lambert	70	34	50			0.00	-0.82	0	0.00				
Tunica	67	36	50	59	-9	0.01	-0.90	1	0.10				
Extreme/Average	70	33	50	59	-9	0.00	-0.89	0	0.05				
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City	69	28	46	58	-12	0.00	-0.75	0	0.00				
Hickory Flat	67	27	45	56	-11	0.00	-0.87	0	0.12				
Independence	65	27	44	57	-13	0.00	-0.80	0	0.03				
Oxford	69	30	48	57	-9	0.00	-0.96	0	0.07				
Extreme/Average	69	27	46	58	-12	0.00	-0.89	0	0.06				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	65	30	49	57	-8	0.00	-0.89	0	0.00				
Iuka	65	26	44	54	-10	0.00	-0.89	0	0.00				
Ripley	61	28	44	56	-12	0.00	-0.87	0	0.00				
Tupelo	69	32	48			0.00		0	0.05				
Verona	70	30	48	58	-10	0.00	-0.74	0	0.03				
Extreme/Average	70	26	47	57	-10	0.00	-0.87	0	0.02				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	71	37	52	61	-9	0.00	-0.86	0	0.04				
Rolling Fork	78	31	51	61	-10	0.00	-0.98	0	0.00				
Stoneville	67	33	50	60	-10	0.00	-0.85	0	0.00				
Yazoo City	70	33	50	62	-12	0.00	-1.05	0	0.00				
Extreme/Average	78	31	51	61	-10	0.00	-0.94	0	0.01				
5. Central													
Canton	74	29	49	60	-11	0.00	-0.93	0	0.00				
Carthage	73	31	49	59	-10	0.00	-0.88	0	0.00				
Eupora	71	29	47	58	-11	0.00	-0.90	0	0.00				
Lexington	71	29	48	59	-11	0.00	-0.94	0	0.10				
Extreme/Average	74	29	48	60	-12	0.00	-0.92	0	0.03				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	66	33	48	58	-10	0.00	-0.89	0	0.00				
Houston				57		0.00	-0.82	0	0.05				
Philadelphia	78	31	51	60	-9	0.00	-0.93	0	0.00				
State University				59		0.00	-0.84	0	0.00				
Extreme/Average	78	31	49	59	-10	0.00	-0.87	0	0.01				
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	77	35	53	63	-10	0.00	-0.77	0	0.00				
Natchez	74	32	49	63	-14	0.00	-1.00	0	0.00				
Oakley	73	31	50	60	-10	0.00	-0.92	0	0.00				
Vicksburg	74	33	51			0.00		0	0.00				
Extreme/Average	77	31	51	62	-11	0.00	-0.90	0	0.00				
8. South-Central													
Collins				61		0.00	-0.87	0	0.00				
Columbia	79	35	53	62	-9	0.00	-0.85	0	0.00				
Tylertown	78	33	52	64	-12	0.00	-0.94	0	0.00				
Extreme/Average	79	33	53	62	-9	0.00	-0.86	0	0.00				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	80	29	53			0.00		0	0.00				
Hattiesburg	79	37	55	63	-8	0.00	-0.91	0	0.06				
Laurel	77	35	52	61	-9	0.00	-0.79	0	0.00				
Newton	75	25	47	59	-12	0.00	-0.90	0	0.03				
Extreme/Average	80	25	52	61	-9	0.00	-0.82	0	0.01				
10.Coastal													
Gulfport	75	42	57	66	-9	0.00	-0.63	0	0.00				
Poplarville	78	36	53	64	-11	0.00	-0.84	0	0.00				
Waveland				64									
Extreme/Average	78	36	53	65	-12	0.00	-0.74	0					
State	80	25	50	60	-10	0.00	-0.87	0	0.02				

DFN = Departure from Normal.